

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-25

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 IO-14 ACDA-19 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-07

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FM AMCONSUL BELFAST

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 580

INFO AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY DUBLIN

USNAVCOMMSTA LONDON DERRY 256

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE SECTION 1 OF 2 BELFAST 164

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PINT UK (NI)

SUBJECT: WHITELAW PROSCRIBES TWO LOYALIST GROUPS

SUMMARY: NORTHERN IRELAND SECRETARY WHITELAW NOVEMBER 12
PROSCRIBED ULSTER FREEDOM FIGHTERS AND RED HAND COMMANDOS, AMONG
SMALLEST BUT MOST VICIOUS LOYALIST PARAMILITARY ORGANIZATIONS.
UFF REPORTEDLY CLAIMED RESPONSIBILITY FOR SEVEN NOVEMBER 12 BOMBINGS
WITHOUT PRIOR WARNING OF CATHOLIC-OWNED PROPERTY AND PROMISED MORE OF
SAME AFTER CHRISTMAS. PERHAPS FOR TACTICAL SECURITY REASONS,
WHITELAW DID NOT PROSCRIBE UDA DESPITE SDLP URGING. ALTHOUGH
PROSCRIPTION DOES ARM HMG WITH NEW LEGAL WEAPONS TO FIGHT LOYALIST
TERRORISM, IT SEEMS LIKELY TO HAVE LITTLE IMMEDIATE EFFECT ON LEVEL
OF LOYALIST VIOLENCE, IN WHICH UDA AND UVF ARE THOUGHT TO PLAY FAR
MORE IMPORTANT ROLES. ALL LOYALIST POLITICIANS CONDEMNED UFF
VIOLENCE, EVEN CRAIG WHO THOUGHT IT PREMATURE. PRINCIPAL PURPOSE
OF PROSCRIPTION IS PROBABLY POLITICAL, TO RESPOND TO CATHOLIC CONCERN
S

EXPRESSED BY CARDINAL CONWAY AND SDLP AND TO SIGNAL TO LOYALISTS THAT
HMG IS PREPARED TO USE EMERGENCY PROVISIONS AGAINST THEM IF THEY TRY
TO WRECK CONSTITUTION ACT. UNIONISTS AND SDLP LEADERS EXPRESSED
DETERMINATION TO CONTINUE EFFORTS TO FORM POWER-SHARING EXECUTIVE
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DESPITE VIOLENCE. END SUMMARY.

1. NORTHERN IRELAND SECRETARY OF STATE WILLIAM WHITELAW NOVEMBER 12 PROSCRIBED TWO LOYALIST TERRORIST ORGANIZATIONS, THE ULSTER FREEDOM FIGHTERS (UFF) AND THE RED HAND COMMANDOS. PROSCRIPTION ORDER, ISSUED AFTER CONSULTATION WITH BRITISH ARMY GOC GEN. KING AND RUC CHIEF CONSTABLE FLANAGAN, FOLLOWED SEVEN BOMBINGS WITHOUT WARNING ON CATHOLIC-OWNED PROPERTY IN BELFAST. SECURITY FORCES BEGAN SEARCHING FOR LOYALIST TERRORISTS AFTER THE ORDER, AND STORMONT CASTLE ANNOUNCED NOVEMBER 13 THAT FIVE HAD BEEN ARRESTED IN BELFAST OVERNIGHT, WHILE SEVERAL OTHERS ARE BEING QUESTIONED ELSEWHERE IN PROVINCE.

2. TWO PROSCRIBED GROUPS ARE AMONG MOST VICIOUS OF LOYALIST PARAMILITARY ORGANIZATIONS IN NORTHERN IRELAND. UFF FIRST ANNOUNCED ITSELF IN JUNE OF THIS YEAR AS GROUP OF MEN DISSATISFIED WITH "SOFT LINE" OF ULSTER DEFENSE ASSOCIATION (UDA), AND SOON BECAME FIRST LOYALIST ORGANIZATION TO CLAIM, USUALLY THROUGH PHONE CALLS TO PRESS BY "CAPTAIN BLACK" OR "CAPTAIN WHITE", RESPONSIBILITY FOR ASSASSINATIONS OF CATHOLIC (INCLUDING SDLP SENATOR PADDY WILSON) AND BOMBINGS OF CATHOLIC-OWNED PROPERTY. AFTER NOVEMBER 12 PROSCRIPTION ORDER, "CAPTAIN WHITE" CALLED BBC NORTHERN IRELAND TO CLAIM RESPONSIBILITY FOR MORNINGS'S BOMBINGS, CONDEMN PROSCRIPTION, AND THREATEN THAT IF IRA DOES NOT CEASE ITS ACTIVITIES, UFF WOULD RESUME AFTER CHRISTMAS ITS CAMPAIGN OF PLANTING BOMBS IN CATHOLIC PROPERTIES WITHOUT GIVING WARNING. CALLER DENOUNCED UNIONISTS AND ALLIANCE PARTIES FOR CRITICIZING UFF AND FOR NEGOTIATING WITH SDLP ABOUT COUNCIL OF IRELAND, AND DECLARED 100 PERCENT SUPPORT TO DEMOCRATIC UNIONIST PARTY AND LOYALIST COALITION.

3. RED HAND COMMANDOS WERE FOUNDED BY JOHN MCKEAGUE, FORMER LEADER OF SHANKILL DEFENCE ASSOCIATION AND EDITOR OF LOYALIST NEWS, WHO WAS ARRESTED EARLIER THIS YEAR AND IS CURRENTLY SERVING THREE YEARS IN PRISON FOR ROBBERY. RED HAND HELD PRESS CONFERENCE IN UDA HEADQUARTERS TO PROTEST ARREST. IT SEEMS TO HAVE LINKS WITH PROSCRIBED ULSTER VOLUNTEER FORCE (UVF) -- SOME LEAFLETS IN BELFAST BEAR NAMES OF BOTH GROUPS, AND LONDON OBSERVER NORTHERN IRELAND CORRESPONDENT KEVIN LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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MYERS SAID ON ULSTER TELEVISION EVENING NOVEMBER 13 THAT RED HAND HAD "CADET RELATIONSHIP" TO UVF. SECURITY FORCES BELIEVE IT IS INVOLVED IN ASSASSINATIONS, BOMBINGS AND SEVERE "DISCIPLINARY" BEATINGS.

4. SECRETARY WHITELAW PROSCRIBED ORGANIZATIONS UNDER SECTION 19(4) OF NORTHERN IRELAND (EMERGENCY PROVISIONS) ACT 1973. SIX ORGANIZATIONS ALREADY PROSCRIBED ARE IRA (WITHOUT DISTINCTION BETWEEN

OFFICIALS AND PROVISIONALS), SINN FEIN (PROVISIONALS; NORTHERN
POLITICAL
WING OF OFFICIALS, THE SIX-COUNTY EXECUTIVE OF REPUBLICAN CLUBS,
IS NO
LONGER PROSCRIBED), CUMANN NA M'BAN AND FIANNA NA H'EIREANN (WOMEN'S
AND YOUTH WINGS OF IRA), SAOR EIRE (SEPARATE REPUBLICAN TERRORIST
ORGANIZATION),
AND UVF, WHICH HAS BEEN BANNED SINCE 1966. LEGAL EFFECT OF
PROSCRIPTION IS THAT PERSONS PROVED TO BE MEMBERS OF OR SOLICITING
SUPPORT
FOR SUCH ORGANIZATION ARE LIABLE ON SUMMARY CONVICTION TO UP TO
SIX
MONTHS AND/OR 400 POUNDS, AND ON CONVICTION FOLLOWING INDICTMENT
TO UP TO FIVE YEARS AND/OR FINE. POSSESSION OF DOCUMENT RELATING TO
PROSCRIBED ORGANIZATION IS ADMISSIBLE EVIDENCE OF MEMBERSHIP. THUS
AUTHORITIES CAN USE NO-JURY COURTS ESTABLISHED UNDER EMERGENCY
PROVISIONS ACT TO BRING TO BOOK MEMBERS OF THESE ORGANIZATIONS
AGAINST WHOM THERE IS INSUFFICIENT EVIDENCE OF SPECIFIC TERRORIST
ACTS ("SCHEDULED OFFENSES" UNDER ACT) WITHOUT FALLING BACK ON
POLITICALLY LESS ACCEPTABLE DEVICE OF DETENTION. VICTIMS OF
TERRORIST ACTS BY MEMBERS OF PROSCRIBED ORGANIZATIONS CAN OBTAIN
COMPENSATION FROM STATE.

5. THERE ARE DIFFERING VIEWS ON IMPORTANCE OF UFF AND RED HAND
AND SECURITY EFFECT OF THEIR PROSCRIPTION. SDLP
(WHOSE RECENTLY-VACATED FORMER HEADQUARTERS SUFFERED SEVERE
DAMAGE IN MORNING'S BOMBING) REPORTEDLY
PUT ASIDE AMBIVALENT FEELINGS ABOUT EMERGENCY PROVISIONS AND
PROSCRIPTION OF ORGANIZATIONS IN ORDER TO URGE WHITELAW TO BAN
UDA IN MEETING AFTERNOON NOVEMBER 12. PARTY ARGUES
THAT UFF AND RED HAND ARE ONLY FRONTS FOR FAR MORE
DANGEROUS UDA. WHITELAW REPORTEDLY TOLD SDLP HE WAS NOT PREPARED
TO BAN UDA BECAUSE THIS WOULD DRIVE IT UNDERGROUND, DECREASE
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INTELLIGENCE-GATHERING ABOUT ITS ACTIVITIES AND RISK CONFRONTATIONS
BETWEEN SECURITY FORCES AND LARGE SECTIONS OF PROTESTANT POPULATION
IN AREAS WHERE UDA REMAINS STRONG. VANGUARD LEADER WILLIAM
CRAIG, WHO PRESUMABLY KNOWS A GOOD DEAL ABOUT LOYALIST
PARAMILITARY ORGANIZATIONS, DISMISSED
PENBERTHY

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ACTION EUR-25

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 IO-14 ACDA-19 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-07

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TO SECSTATE WASHDC 581

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LIMITED OFFICIAL USE SECTION 2 OF 2 BELFAST 164

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PINT UK(NI)

SUBJECT: WHITELAW PROSCRIBES TWO LOYALIST GROUPS

UFF AND RED HAND AS "NOT CREDIBLE" HAVING MADE CLAIMS BEYOND THEIR CAPACITY TO CARRY OUT. OBSERVER CORRESPONDENT MYERS, WHO SAID HE HAD SPENT DAY WITH UVF LEADERS, SAID UVF IS REAL BRAINS BEHIND CURRENT ESCALATION IN LOYALIST VIOLENCE, INTENDED TO PREVENT FORMATION OF POWER-SHARING EXECUTIVE AND COUNCIL OF IRELAND AND TO RESTORE BRITISH PARLIAMENTARY DEMOCRACY (READ LOYALIST MAJORITY RULE) TO NORTHERN IRELAND. LAST MONTH UVF ANNOUNCED INTENSIVE CAMPAIGN WHICH WOULD END NOVEMBER 18, BUT WOULD BE RESUMED AFTER CHRISTMAS IF UVF WAS NOT SATISFIED WITH POLITICAL SITUATION. TIMES CORRESPONDENT ROBERT FISK REPORTED NOVEMBER 14 THAT ARMY HAD ESTIMATED IT WOULD HAVE TO ARREST BETWEEN 50 AND 60 MEN TO END ACTIVITIES OF UFF AND RED HAND; BECAUSE UFF IS SPLIT INTO MANY RELATIVELY AUTONOMOUS GROUPS AND LARGE-SCALE SWEEP WOULD BE POLITICALLY DIFFICULT, IT MAY TAKE MONTHS TO REDUCE LOYALIST VIOLENCE. (COMMENT: TO OBTAIN CONVICTION FOR MEMBERSHIP OF UFF OR RED HAND HMG WILL HAVE TO PROVE AFFILIATION AFTER ORGANIZATION PROSCRIBED.)

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6. VANGUARD LEADER CRAIG CLAIMED TO KNOW NOTHING OF UFF, BUT WAS "NOT SURPRIZED" AT LOYALIST VIOLENCE AGAINST CATHOLIC PROPERTY IN VIEW OF BRITISH "APPEASEMENT POLICY." HE COULD NOT

SAY WHETHER HE WOULD WELCOME UFF SUPPORT, BUT WOULD IMAGINE THAT ANYONE WHO SUPPORTS ULSTER CAUSE WOULD SUPPORT LOYALIST COALITION. HE WAS PREPARED TO CONSIDER BOMBING CAMPAIGN, BUT ONLY AFTER ALL CONSTITUTIONAL MEANS HAD FAILED TO PROCURE CHANGES IN CONSTITUTION ACT. DUP LEADER IAN PAISLEY REJECTED REPORTED SUPPORT OF UFF AND CONDEMNED VIOLENCE FROM WHATEVER QUARTER IT CAME, BUT, LIKE CRAIG, RIDICULED PROSCRIPTIONS AS BRITISH GESTURE TO SDLP AND TO CATHOLIC CARDINAL CONWAY, WHO IN UNUSUAL NOVEMBER 9 STATEMENT HAD TAKEN BRITISH GOVERNMENT TO TASK OVER WHAT HE CHARACTERIZED AS FAILURE TO COMMUNICATE SUFFICIENT CONCERN ABOUT LOYALIST CAMPAIGN TO ASSASSINATE CATHOLICS. UNPLEDGED UNIONIST ASSEMBLY PARTY LEADER HARRY WEST SAID HE REJECTED LOYALIST VIOLENCE AS MUCH AS THAT FROM ANY OTHER SOURCE; HE OPPOSED POWER-SHARING, BUT REPUDIATED ANY IMPLIED SUPPORT FROM GROUPS PREPARED TO ACT UNCONSTITUTIONALLY SUCH AS THE UFF. WEST'S COLLEAGUE JOHN LAIRD WAS "TOTALLY DISGUSTED" BY VIOLENCE CAMPAIGN.

7. UNIONIST LEADER BRIAN FAULKNER, IN TELEVISION INTERVIEW, CONDEMNED VIOLENCE FROM WHATEVER QUARTER, SUPPORTED WHITELAW'S DECISION TO PROSCRIBE UFF AND RED HAND, AND SAID THAT IF LOYALIST VIOLENCE WAS INTENDED TO FRIGHTEN UNIONIST AWAY FROM AGREEMENT ON POWER-SHARING EXECUTIVE, IT WAS ON CONTRARY MAKING THEM MORE DETERMINED THAN EVER TO OVERCOME OBSTACLES TO AGREEMENT. HE WAS CAUTIOUSLY OPTIMISTIC THAT AGREEMENT WOULD COME. SDLP LEADER GERRY FITT, ALSO ON TV, THOUGH SKEPTICAL ABOUT THE VALUE OF PROSCRIPTION AND SOMEWHAT MORE BEARISH ON PROSPECTS OF AGREEMENT ON EXECUTIVE, WAS EQUALLY DETERMINED TO REACH AGREEMENT. IN SEPARATE STATEMENTS, SDLP GENERAL SECRETARY JOHN DUFFY AND (CATHOLIC) IRISH NEWS WERE SOMEWHAT GRUDGINGLY OPTIMISTIC THAT PROSCRIPTION SIGNALLED MORE SERIOUS CAMPAIGN BY HMG AGAINST LOYALIST VIOLENCE.

8. COMMENTS:

A. PROSCRIPTION OF THESE TWO RELATIVELY INSIGNIFICANT LOYALIST ORGANIZATIONS IS OF ONLY MARGINAL VALUE TO SECURITY LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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FORCES IN THEIR EFFORT TO REDUCE LOYALIST VIOLENCE. MORE GENERALLY SPEAKING MULTIPLICITY OF SUCH ORGANIZATIONS AND THEIR OVERLAPPING AND SHIFTING MEMBERSHIP PRESENT DIFFERENT SECURITY PROBLEMS THAN TRADITIONAL HIERARCHY OF IRA, AND MAKE PROSCRIPTION OF A PARTICULAR LOYALIST ORGANIZATION LESS MEANINGFUL THAN PROSCRIPTION OF IRA AND ITS AFFILIATES.

B. WHITELAW'S REFUSAL TO PROSCRIBE UDA AT THIS TIME, FOR TWO REASONS, AT LEAST, MAY HAVE BEEN BETTER PART OF VALOR. UDA RETAINS RESIDUAL POPULARITY IN MANY LOYALIST AREAS (ALTHOUGH THERE IS

CONSIDERABLE EVIDENCE UDA HAS DECLINED INTO LITTLE MORE THAN A PROTECTION RACKET IN RECENT MONTHS). AND SECURITY FORCES ARE RELUCTANT TO ENGAGE IN TWO-FRONT WAR BEFORE EXECUTIVE IS FORMED AND FULL SUPPORT OF IRISH GOVERNMENT IS OBTAINED FOR CONTINUING CAMPAIGN AGAINST IRA.

C. PRINCIPAL VALUE OF PROSCRIPTION IS POLITICAL. WHITELAW COULD HARDLY DO LESS IN FACE OF INCREASED LOYALIST VIOLENCE, SELF-PROCLAIMED ROLE OF UFF AND RED HAND IN IT, AND CONCERN OF CATHOLIC COMMUNITY AS EXPRESSED BY SDLP AND CARDINAL CONWAY. AS BOTH IRISH NEWS AND BELFAST TELEGRAPH POINTED OUT, CONTINUED LOYALIST VIOLENCE COULD DRIVE CATHOLIC POPULATION BACK INTO EMBRACE OF IRA. SINCE PROSCRIPTIONS ARE FIRST UNDER NEW EMERGENCY PROVISIONS, AND FIRST OF LOYALIST ORGANIZATIONS SINCE 1966, THEY MAY ALSO BE SEEN AS SIGNAL TO LOYALISTS THAT HMG IS PREPARED TO USE EMERGENCY PROVISIONS AGAINST THEM TO PREVENT WRECKING OF CONSTITUTION.
PENBERTHY

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